



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
2415 EISENHOWER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

**Office of the Assistant Director
Directorate for Geosciences**

Dr. Kaatje Kraft
Department of Sciences
Whatcom Community College
Bellingham WA 98226

Dear Dr. Kraft:

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Division of Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences (AGS) held March 30-April 1, 2020. Both the COV report and the NSF response will be presented to the NSF Advisory Committee for Geosciences (AC-GEO) at the upcoming meeting in October 2020. Once approved by the AC-GEO, the report and NSF's response will be made public.

I sincerely appreciate the time and energy that you and each member of the COV dedicated to this process. NSF and the AGS community will benefit greatly from your thorough and thoughtful analysis. I was pleased to hear the COV concluded that AGS is well-managed, and I am particularly appreciative of your constructive suggestions for improvements. The insights and recommendations provided by the COV will help us balance the near-term and long-range strategic and management objectives for the Directorate of Geosciences (GEO).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision was made at relatively short notice to convert the COV from a face-to-face meeting to a virtual meeting. It was a time when everyone was facing challenges on the work and family front. I greatly appreciate willingness on the part of the COV to stick to the originally agreed-upon timeline. Furthermore, I recognize the effort went far beyond the three days of virtual meetings. I am particularly grateful for the COV's responsiveness to the Self Study Report that AGS undertook. As you are aware this is the first time AGS has completed a self-study such as this. The many hours of advance work with the self-study and reviewing portfolios of awards and declinations were clear from the informed discussions and thoughtful recommendations you have provided. We owe you and all members of the COV many thanks.

Dr. Anjuli Bamzai as well as the rest of the team at AGS, have provided a specific set of responses to the committee's findings and recommendations in the enclosed document. This initial set of responses often includes a promise to consider the way forward, develop an action plan, and report on impacts of the action plan. As such, this first response will be followed at annual intervals, with the actions and impacts being more specifically documented over time.

Thank you again for your team's contribution to maintaining the tradition of close cooperation between NSF and the AGS community through the process of periodic outside review by a COV.

Sincerely,

William Easterling
Assistant Director

CC: AC-GEO Chair
COV Members